



PALISADES

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Executive Director/Principal Report Board of Trustees Meeting May 16, 2023

Our mission: PCHS will empower our diverse student population to make positive contributions to the global community by dedicating our resources to ensure educational excellence, civic responsibility, and personal growth.

Schoolwide Goals – Academic Growth and Achievement/Professional Development/Communication/Student Socioemotional Well-being/Diversity & Equity

2023 PCHS EdTech Plan and 1:1 program

The PCHS EdTech Plan addresses the urgent need for universal, streamlined and standardized technology solutions that provide the highest quality learning experiences for all PCHS students in a technology ecosystem that works for everyone. *This EdTech strategic plan is particularly necessary as PCHS shifts from traditional paper and pencil tests, and scantron use, to next generation digital assessments that enable more flexibility, responsiveness, and contextualization. Ensuring uniform access to hardware, software and reliable internet will enhance PCHS's use of ongoing, formative, and embedded assessments that are less disruptive and more useful for improving learning. These advances also ensure that all students have the best opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills on statewide assessments that increasingly focus on real-world skills and complex demonstrations of understanding. The PCHS mission and vision statements underscore the need to complete the transition to high quality and uniform technology solutions that are better aligned with our educational purpose.* From the PCHS EdTech Plan introduction

Converting to a 1:1 device school ensures PCHS has solutions to the current challenges we have faced to:

1. **Protect focused instructional time** without interruptions due to technical issues, troubleshooting, and unsecured personal devices in the classroom.
2. **Limit learning loss** for students whose home/personal devices malfunction.
3. **Maintain strong network and technical security** for our operational infrastructure.
4. **Support our faculty** to invest deeply in specific technologies and software that allow for innovative instructional approaches and differentiation.
5. **Manage increasing testing requirements from the state** that lengthens the testing window and creates significant interruptions to our instructional program.

PCHS is engaging the school community in the feedback loop.

- Monthly discussions with the Budget & Finance Committee.
- EdTech Plan included in the April 18 Board of Trustees Meeting materials.
- Staff informational and feedback meetings regarding the 1:1 program held during 0 and 7th periods on April 25 and May 2. EdTech Lead Lindsey Surendranath met with individuals who were unable to attend these meetings.



- Information regarding the 1:1 program presented to and discussed with the Long-Term Strategic Planning Committee on April 26.
- The ASB Leadership Class met with EdTech Lead Lindsey Surendranath on May 5.
- ASB sponsored a Student Concern meeting on Monday, May 15.
- Information for parents with a link to provide feedback shared in the May 10 Parent Newsletter and in separate letter sent via email and posted on ParentSquare on May 12.

PCHS Summative Assessment Schedule – The following schedule reflects the 2023 mandated spring assessments.

- California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) and English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) – Now through May
- NWEA Math and English - April 14-24
- Advanced Placement – May 1-5 and May 8-12
- Internal Summative Assessments – May 23-June 7

During 2022-23 approximately **12,233** standardized tests were administered. New state testing mandates will increase this number to approximately **37,475** tests in 2023-24. These numbers do not include Advanced Placement tests.

Advanced Placement Testing:

2023:

2,071 tests given

1,176 students tested

2022:

1,800 tests given

1,070 students tested

Feedback on impact of new PCHS Testing Policy

As of May 12, no juniors have requested the alternate assessment. AP testing was the priority over the past two weeks. Remaining standardized testing will continue now that AP testing is completed except for make-up exams.

PCHS Math Task Force Culmination

The PCHS Math Task Force comprised of parents, staff and teachers concluded its monthly meetings focused on providing support for the Math Department and ongoing equitable systems, policy and practice review. The task force has been very fortunate to have members of the Paul Revere Middle School Math Department as part of the group. In addition to vetting the PCHS Math Placement Policy, student focus groups are being coordinated to better understand student perspectives about preparation and preparedness for upper-level math courses at PCHS. Ongoing articulation and summer training with the PRMS Math Department is being developed to ensure a consistent, equitable pathway for math success for all students.

Math Task Force Outcomes

- A. Increased articulation with Paul Revere Charter Middle School. PCHS and PRCMS have:



PALISADES

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

- Reviewed the PCHS Math Placement Policy passed by the PCHS Board of Trustees April 2023.
- Made agreements for data sharing with Paul Revere Charter Middle School to help 9th grade math course placement (STAR testing).
- Agreed to participate in a shared professional development opportunity in Culturally Responsive Teaching.

B. Professional Development Direction

- PCHS Leadership met with Dr. Sharroky Hollie to start preliminary conversations about training for 2023-2024. We will be discussing these options with our Equity Team to determine the best option for PCHS faculty.
- The equity and inclusion work initiated with the Museum of Tolerance will continue through 2023-2024.
- Summer professional development design time will be issues to math teachers in Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II to integrate culturally responsive curriculum to performance tasks.

C. Instruction

- Add a math peer coach to be on staff for next year who will be part of the cohort of teachers who are in phase on of culturally responsive teaching.
- Three new foundational teachers in Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II.
- Summer hours available for math curriculum design.
- Form Algebra II PLC with some new members.
- Culturally Responsive Curriculum - Monica Iannessa is reviewing curriculum that can be inserted to units for next year's foundational classes. She is currently examining "Connecting Mathematics and Social Justice" from Math Teachers' Circle for Justice. This curriculum can be used to create Math Performance Tasks that are relevant to students. Additionally, we have books on order for "Strategies for Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Teaching and Learning."

D. Next Steps

- Data Review of CASSPP and NWEA Math scores to set benchmarks for success. (Summer 2023).
- *Fuerza Unida* padrinos to meet with The Village Nation elders with Math and English teachers to create specific Black/AA and Latinx Student Achievement Plans for Math and English. (Summer 2023).
- Collaboration and planning with Dr. Hollie. (End of school year)
- Finish the Math teacher hires. (End of school year)
- Schedule articulation meetings with Paul Revere Math teachers.

Equity Team Update

The PCHS Equity Team comprised of teachers and staff including administrators continues to meet bi-monthly to plan professional development, review data, and develop action plans. The most recent initiatives are as follows:



PALISADES

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

- Back to School Professional Development Planning building on our work with the Museum of Tolerance
- Student Success: Discussion about the combination of The Village Nation/Black Student Union, *Fuerza Unida*/Latinx Student Union. The consensus is that it works best for the partner groups to combine. The earlier logic model was for the groups to be separate with close collaboration.
- *FUN* presentation – Parents requests: Academic help for students, FAFSA help, safe space for undocumented parents (not so many students),
- State achievement data is devastating – Few Latinx males complete community college. Pali data shows a disproportionate number of students receiving special education services and students of color (especially male) are not succeeding academically. The PCHS Math Task Force reviewed data of upper-level math classes. Very few students of color are enrolled in these classes. Specific plans with specific benchmarks are incorporated into the Local Control Accountability Plan.
- PCHS plans to develop a TVN and *FUN* achievement plan beginning with literacy and building into tiered intervention plans.
- Congratulations to *Fuerza Unida* and coordinator Myrna Cervantes on a very successful parent/student workshop held on Saturday, May 6. Approximately 100 parents, 40 students, and seven *madrinas* participated. Workshops included A-G, CP, Honors, & AP; FAFSA; Mental Health; Creating a sense of belonging, and Celebrating our accomplishments.

Equitable grading practices/grading policy –

PCHS has been engaged in study and action research based on Joe Feldman's work in *Grading for Equity* since 2020. Reading groups formed in 2021 with self-selected Professional Learning Communities piloting specific grading practices in 2022. This year our focus has turned to examining grading policies through an equity lens.

Currently, academic departments continue to provide input on the most appropriate grading scales for each subject area. Department Chairs are leading their departments in reflection on the question, "What policies and practices should we examine?" Related practices include credit for late work, missing work, cheating, extra credit, assessing group work, promoting academic growth and mastery, weighting, and developing growth mindsets. Our goal is to reach consensus on several equitable grading practices to pilot schoolwide during the 2023-2024 school year.

Student Recognition – The Guidance and Counseling Office is recognizing students who have made outstanding academic progress.

- **Principal's Honor Roll** includes all students for whom the Spring 2022 Unweighted + Bonus Term GPA was ≥ 3.700 AND contained no "NC" or "U" marks.
- **President's Honor Roll** includes all Spring 2023 Seniors who have earned an Unweighted + Bonus Term GPA ≥ 3.700 for every semester of attendance at PCHS, and each with no "NC" or "U" marks.



- Please note that while some students have completed 7 semesters at PCHS, others have completed fewer, including some with only 1 term.

Class of 2023 Commencement Ceremony

Graduation represents the culmination of the high school experience. This year's PCHS Graduation Ceremony will be held on **THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023 at 3:30PM at the Palisades Charter High School Stadium by the Sea.** Gates will open at 2:00PM and security may be searching all bags. Due to the large graduating class and the limited capacity of our stadium, each PCHS graduate will only be issued **4 tickets** for guest admittance to the Graduation Ceremony. We will also be streaming the live Graduation Ceremony. There is a **MANDATORY** Graduation Information Meeting on May 24, 2023 during the Pali Period. Additionally, there is a **MANDATORY** Graduation Rehearsal on June 8, 2023 from 8:00AM-10:30AM. Students **MUST** attend the Graduation Rehearsal and failure to attend may prevent a student from participating in the Ceremony. Following the Ceremony, students will pick up their diplomas.

Only students who meet all the following graduation requirements are eligible to participate in the Graduation Ceremony:

- Pass all PCHS required courses
- Earn a minimum of 230 credits
- Complete a minimum of 10 hours of Community Service
- Return a signed and completed Graduation Contract
- Complete a Senior Post-Graduation Form
- Clear all fees
- Return all PCHS property (including technology)
- Empty all campus lockers
- Meet all behavioral expectation

Participation in the Graduation Ceremony is completely voluntary and is not necessary for a student to receive a diploma. Any student who does not participate and is eligible to receive a diploma may obtain the diploma in the Counseling Office after June 12, 2023

Student Assemblies May 18 and 19

PCHS has been afforded an incredible opportunity for outreach that targets our 9th and 10th grade students. Jonathan Cristall, a City of Los Angeles prosecutor and the author of the award-winning book, *What They Don't Teach Teens*, will be conducting workshops for Pali students in May. This workshop will help sensitize and clarify the many complicated, delicate situations that students face and empower them to make good choices. He will also be conducting a **presentation for parents on the morning of May 18** to share information about both topics, too. More information about each session can be found on the following write-up from Mr. Cristall.